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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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23

26 April 1962

SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SPECIAL GROUP (AUGMENTED)

From: Brig. Gen. Lansdale *SL*

Subject: Operation Mongoose, 20-26 April

The following are the significant highlights of Operation Mongoose for the week:

May Day. World-wide attention focused upon May Day by the Communists, as "their day," is expected to be exploited by Castro promoters throughout Latin America. CIA and USIA hope to counter this propaganda play and possibly to encourage public opinion favorably for Cuban freedom. The plight of Cuban workers especially will be a theme injected into statements, speeches, meetings, and parades on 1 May. It is hoped to have prominent Cuban exiles make statements and, if possible, appearances in key Latin American cities to attract news pick-up and impress their case most favorably.

Agents. The past 3 weeks have been marked with bad luck in CIA's infiltration and exfiltration of agent teams. Most of the operations aborted. Bill Harvey is now in Florida initiating a new series of agent infiltrations and is hopeful of closing up with the schedule in May. He will be back in Washington 30 April.

Special Press Interest. The increased play given by the U. S. press to possible liberation projects and the Cuban refugees makes the security of operations more difficult and important. An item pertaining to intelligence in the Wall Street Journal, which appeared 26 April, was called to the attention of General Taylor by the Chief of Operations as warranting special attention. At General Taylor's request, copies of the item were sent to members of the Special Group (Augmented) to note possible security implications. Such news projects as Dave Brinkley's scheduled coverage of Guantanamo for a TV documentary underline the need for being alert to publicity affecting Operation Mongoose.

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